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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Philippines

SUBJECT Periculture Centers/Increase of Private
Schools/Lack of Funds for Nursing Schools

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1. There is a drive under way in the Philippines to set up periculture centers in each major rural town. Many of them have already been set up, and are generally successful and well received. In fact, the Government is doing a pretty fair public health job in general, and the personnel involved are usually of fairly high quality.
2. The periculture centers normally have a staff of one doctor and at least one trained midwife. The greatest drawback to the system seems to be that in some outlying areas the majority of people are too ignorant to realize what services are available to them through the Government public health program. We heard of many cases where expectant mothers are still calling upon the services of local women who are not trained midwives, in spite of the fact that there is a trained midwife attached to the periculture center. The only way to alleviate this situation is for the level of general education to be raised, and in this connection there has been a phenomenal growth of private schools since World War II which will help greatly. As an example, the Presbyterian Church now has over 60 church-related schools in operation throughout the Philippines, whereas there were only six such schools before World War II. At present, only about three of the 60 schools are not self-supporting, which indicates that the increase in the number of schools is on a stable foundation and is not an artificial growth.
3. The nursing schools in the Philippines, from the standpoint of curriculum and academic organization, are mostly very good. Their biggest drawback is lack

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of funds, especially as far as the Government nursing schools are concerned. The only schools which can maintain high standards of clinical instruction are those with US backing. The others lack the laboratory facilities necessary for outstanding instruction. As a matter of fact, lack of laboratory facilities (ie funds) effectively limits medical diagnoses in all medical work in the Islands.

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